

In the claims:

Please enter the following claims including the amendments and additions thereto.

6 (previously amended). A product according to claim 77, where said microcapsule comprises a polysaccharide gum surrounded by a semipermeable membrane.

7 (previously amended). A product according to claim 77, where said microcapsule comprises alginate in combination with polylysine, polyornithine, and combinations thereof.

8 (previously amended). A product according to claim 77, wherein said microcapsule has an internal cell-containing core of alginate.

9 (previously amended). A product according to claim 8 wherein said internal cell-containing core of alginate is gelled.

10 (previously amended). A product according to claim 77, wherein said internal cell-containing core of alginate is not gelled.

11 (previously amended). A product according to claim 77, wherein said microcapsule has a diameter of from about 50 μm to about 2 mm.

12 (previously amended). A product according to claim 77, wherein said microcapsule has a diameter of from about 200 μm to about 1000 μm .

13 (previously amended). A product according to claim 77, wherein said microcapsule has a diameter of from about 300 μm to about 700 μm .

77 (previously amended). A microencapsulated islet cell product comprising microcapsules containing isolated living pancreatic islet cells therein, said

microencapsulated islet cells exhibiting a weight gain of not more than 10 percent by weight over a period of one month in physiological saline solution at 37 degrees Celsius and exhibiting at least 150 percent basal insulin secretion in response to 16.7 milliMolar glucose challenge in Krebs-Ringer physiological solution at pH 7.4 after said period of one month.

84 (previously presented). A microencapsulated islet cell product comprising microcapsules containing isolated living pancreatic islet cells therein, said microencapsulated islet cells exhibiting a weight gain of not more than 10 percent by weight over a period of one month in physiological saline solution at 37 degrees Celsius and exhibiting at least 150 percent basal insulin secretion in response to 16.7 milliMolar glucose challenge in Krebs-Ringer physiological solution at pH 7.4 after said period of one month;

wherein said microcapsule comprises a polysaccharide gum surrounded by a semipermeable membrane;

and wherein said microcapsule has a diameter of from about 300 μm to about 700 μm .

85 (new). A microencapsulated islet cell product according to claim 77, wherein said microencapsulated islet cell is produced by the process of incubating said microcapsule following microencapsulation with a physiologically acceptable salt to increase the durability of the microcapsule.

86 (new). A microencapsulated islet cell product according to claim 84, wherein said microencapsulated islet cell is produced by the process of incubating said microcapsule following microencapsulation with a physiologically acceptable salt to increase the durability of the microcapsule.